

*Easter Greetings from all of us at St Mary's – and especially
from the Ministry Team!*



We hope you had a good Easter! You have all been in our thoughts and prayers

Our keeping of Holy Week and Easter were very different this year and we have been thinking afresh about the Gospel accounts as we see them from our current context.

After the Resurrection the disciples continued to meet for a while behind locked doors out of fear. But in the midst of their fear they found the joy and

peace of the risen Lord.

He comes to them, where they are, and reassures them that he is with them. Perhaps this is something we can reflect on and discover as we are 'locked' behind doors sometimes surrounded by fear and uncertainty.

To help us in this reflection we are inviting you to keep [a prayer journal for yourself](#) of this time. Follow the link to the web page which explains more, and if you want to discuss further or would like some support with this then please do contact Revd Sam (details in the leaflet).

Also, to remind you of the ways that we can all be united in being a people of prayer:



Pause and Pray

Each day we are inviting you to **pause and pray with us at 9am and 5pm.**

There was a [link to a simple service](#) in the previous mailing. Mthr Charlotte has prepared the suggested readings and psalms for the next 3 weeks - which are included on the link above.

Alternatively, at those times simply be still and either light a candle, or read a short passage of scripture and be aware of Christ's presence with you as light in the darkness, and be aware of the love and support of all those praying with you at that time.

If you like any further help or support with your prayers then please do let us know and we will get it to you.



Also each day at **Noon we are sharing a celebration of the Eucharist 'Easter in our Homes'** streamed to our webpage (www.portseaparish.co.uk) from the Vicarage.

If you have access to the **YouTube Channel on your TV** then you can also share in the celebrations by searching for the 'Portsea Parish' videos.

If you have someone who can help you see this then please do join us – you can watch the celebrations at any time of the day.

Likewise, on **Sundays we are celebrating at 10am.**

If you want details or help to access please contact us.

In addition to this there is also the access to the daily reflections via **a phone line which has the recordings of the Daily Reflections** we are providing alongside the Eucharist.

There are 6 options – myself, Revds. Sue, Sam, & Marcus, Mthr Charlotte and Canon Bruce.

You simply dial in, select the option and then you can listen to the reflection.

They last between 5 & 10mins and the call costs 1p per minute (from a landline).

The number to call is 02393 190 916. The reflections will be updated every Wednesday and Sunday.



Finally, as a resource for our prayers we have access to material that we normally use for our young people on a Sunday, but which has been extended to provide material for adults.

You can access it via this link :

- Resources for adults:
www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome19apr
- Resources for families:
www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome19apr

These direct links follow the same pattern every week, so you can simply adjust the date at the end.

We are also continuing to be a people who show God's care in action.

I hope that by now you will have received at least one call from one of the team to have a chat and see how you are getting on & also to see if we can help you in anyway.

We have a small group of people who have offered to help – and they are assisting people with collecting shopping, picking up prescriptions, and getting other essential items.

If we can't assist, then we are able to access the HIVE help desk covering the city and we will work with them to help you.

Please don't wait for us to contact you, or hesitate to ask, there is sufficient supplies of everything in the city and we will happily help you to have what you need.

Also, if you are worried, or uncertain about anything, then just pick up the phone and call us or leave a message – key phone numbers are at the end of this letter.

I need to end mentioning that as a Parish our finances have been severely affected by the loss of income from bookings and events such as the May Fayre, as well as the weekly giving through the plate.

If you would like to support us in continuing to do all we are doing and would like to make a donation, please contact me for details as to how best to do this.

Can I end again by thanking all who are helping us as the community of faith – and to reassure you of your thoughts and prayers at this time



With best wishes

Father Bob

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